



## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U. S. Coast Guard

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#### **Coast Guard responds to oil leaking from barge in Buzzard's Bay**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – At approximately 5:30 pm yesterday afternoon, Marine Safety Office Providence responded to a report of a possible leak of No. 6 oil from the tank barge B. No. 120. The barge was being towed through Buzzards Bay enroute the Mirant Canal Power Plant at Sandwich, MA, and was carrying approximately 97,000 barrels of oil. The owner of the barge is Bouchard Transportation Co. Barge personnel reported a sheen trailing behind the barge. The barge is anchored in Anchorage Lima. A dive survey and soundings of the tanks revealed a fracture in the bottom of the number 2 starboard tank and an estimated 14,700 gallons (350 barrels) of oil released into the Bay. The owner of the barge has contracted Marine Spill Response Corporation and Clean Harbors Environmental Services to minimize environmental impact and conduct clean-up activities.

The leak has been contained. There is no additional oil leaking from the barge. Containment boom has been placed around the vessel to mitigate the possibility of any further release. A safety zone has been put into place to minimize the effects of passing traffic on the barge. An over flight of the area was conducted at first light to assess the impact of the spill.

The oil spill cleanup contractors are actively engaged in conducting cleanup activities. Numerous response assets are currently on scene, including the MSRC MAINE RESPONDER, an oil spill recovery vessel, 2 skimmer-barge units, and several thousand feet of protective boom. Additionally, the Coast Guard Cutter IDA LEWIS will deploy a Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System to help facilitate the recovery of oil.

The Commonwealth's Division of Marine Fisheries has closed all shellfish areas located within the area from Nye's Neck in Falmouth to Angelica Point in Marion to the Massachusetts/Rhode Island line.

The Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection are monitoring the response and clean-up of the oil with personnel, boats, and aircraft. An Incident Command Post has been established at Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod.

Future actions include the aggressive identification and removal of pockets of oil from the water, protection of sensitive areas, the review and approval of a plan to salvage the vessel, and the establishment of a joint information command.

Press inquiries may be directed to Petty Officer Andrew Shinn at (508) 968-6440.

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